



Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Overview

Every community should understand the risks it faces. By understanding its risks, a community can make smart decisions about how to manage risk, including developing needed capabilities. Risk is the potential for an unwanted outcome resulting from an incident, event, or occurrence, as determined by its likelihood and the associated consequences. By considering changes to these elements, a community can understand how to best manage and plan for its greatest risks across the full range of the threats and hazards it faces.

The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) is a 4 step common risk assessment process that helps the whole community—including individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofit groups, schools and academia and all levels of government—understand its risks and estimate capability requirements. As the foundation of the National Preparedness System, the THIRA process helps communities map their risks to the core capabilities, enabling them to determine whole-community informed:

- Desired outcomes,
- Capability targets, and
- Resources required to achieve their Capability targets.

The outputs of this process serve as the foundation for a range of other preparedness efforts, which are covered under the National Preparedness System.

Description

The THIRA standardizes the risk analysis process that emergency managers and homeland security professionals employ every day, and informs a variety of emergency management efforts, including: emergency operations planning, mutual aid agreements, and hazard mitigation planning.

Ultimately, the THIRA process helps communities answer the following questions:

- What do we need to prepare for?
- What shareable resources are required in order to be prepared?
- What actions could be employed to avoid, divert, lessen, or eliminate a threat or hazard?

The THIRA Process:

1. Identify Threats and Hazards of

Concern: Based on a combination of experience, forecasting, subject matter expertise, and other available resources, identify a list of the threats and hazards of primary concern to the community.

2. Give the Threats and Hazards

Context: Describe the threats and hazards of concern, showing how they may affect the community.

3. Establish Capability Targets:

Assess each threat and hazard in context to develop a specific capability target for each core capability identified in the National Preparedness Goal. The capability target defines success for the capability.

4. Apply the Results:

For each core capability, estimate the resources required to achieve the capability targets through the use of community assets and mutual aid, while also considering preparedness activities, including mitigation opportunities.